



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E528136Z3

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Grazing management that improves Monarch butterfly habitat

Conservation Practice 528: Prescribed Grazing

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Range

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Fish & Wildlife Inadequate Habitat

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Implement a grazing management plan that will increase the abundance and diversity of monarch nectar-producing perennial forbs, including milkweed, while maintaining ecosystem benefits for other wildlife and livestock.

Criteria

- Evaluate habitat in the enhanced, delineated Monarch areas with the state NRCS Monarch Butterfly Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) and manage delineated Monarch areas to improve the WHEG score at least one category (e.g. from poor to fair, or from good to excellent).
- Enhance diversity of rangeland plants to optimize delivery of nutrients to domestic grazing animals by incorporating the intensity, frequency, timing and duration of grazing and/or browsing needed as determined by a planning process that includes:
 - Clear objectives,
 - A resource inventory with ecological site description or reference sheet and structural improvements and existing resource conditions,
 - Grazing plan,
 - A contingency plan, and



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- Monitoring and needed adjustments for Monarchs, domestic grazing animals, and other wildlife (including pollinators).
- Defer, rest, or graze the enhanced, delineated Monarch areas so as to meet the nectar-producing forbs, including milkweed, needs of Monarch Butterflies when the Monarchs will be migrating through the area (e.g. spring and fall for the southern Great Plains, summer and fall for the Midwest, northern Great Plains and east, and spring through fall for the west).
- There will be at least two delineated Monarch areas within the enrolled area, comprising at least 5 acres or 5% of the enrolled area, whichever is most. These areas will be located to avoid density related butterfly-parasite interactions.
- A written plan for matching the forage quantity and quality produced with the grazing and/or browsing demand by livestock and wildlife will be followed.
- Supplemental feed and/or minerals will be balanced with the forage consumption to meet the desired nutritional level for the kind and class of grazing and/or browsing livestock.

Documentation Requirements

- Livestock herd management records.
- NRCS state-approved Monarch WHEG evaluation before implementation and after implementation of this enhancement. Minimum score after implementation will be one category higher than initial score when specifically rated for Monarch Butterflies.
- A map showing where the Monarch delineated habitat is located.